

## **A Review of the State of Michigan's Benefits for Veterans with Service Connected Disabilities**

*This information sheet reviews State of Michigan benefits for disabled veterans.*

Most State of Michigan benefits require a total and permanent disability rating. The annual letter you receive from the USDVA specifically indicates whether you are considered totally and permanently disabled, provides your current disability rating and indicates whether you have received a grant to specially adapt your home.

### **Property Tax Waiver**

A veteran owning a home adapted by the US Department of Veterans Affairs' Specially Adapted Housing program may request a waiver of property tax. The letter you received from the US Department of Veterans Affairs states whether you have received this grant.

An eligible veteran and surviving spouse applies for the property tax waiver to the local government office issuing the property tax bill IE city, village, township.

Eligibility for the Specially Adapted Housing program requires a total and permanent disability due to:

- a. The loss, or loss of use, of both lower extremities such as to preclude locomotion without the aid of braces, crutches, canes, or a wheelchair.
- b. Blindness in both eyes having only light perception, plus loss or loss of use of one lower extremity.
- c. The loss, or loss of use, of one lower extremity together with
  - (1) residuals of organic disease or injury, or
  - (2) the loss or loss of use of one upper extremity.Item (1) and Item (2) above must so affect the functions of balance or propulsion as to preclude locomotion without the aid of braces, crutches, canes, or a wheelchair.
- d. The loss, or loss of use, of both upper extremities, so as to preclude use of the arms at or above the elbows.
- e. The permanent and total disability is due to a severe burn injury (as so determined).

For more information you can contact the US Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office in Detroit at 313-471-3700.

### **Vehicle Registration Fee**

The Secretary of State will license and register a total and permanently disabled veteran's vehicle for an annual administrative fee of \$5. The remainder of the annual registration and license fee is waived. You may call your local Secretary of State branch office for additional information. Office locations can be found at <http://www.michigan.gov/sos>.

Note: Ex-prisoners of war, regardless of their disability rating are eligible for this reduced cost license plate.

**Children of Veterans Tuition Grant**

The grant provides undergraduate tuition assistance to the child of a veteran who died while on active federal duty or who has been awarded a total and permanent disability rating from the US Department of Veterans Affairs.

The State of Michigan's Department of Treasury administers the grant. You may call 888-447-2687 or visit <http://www.michigan.gov/osg> for additional information.

**Reduced cost hunting or fishing license**

Michigan's Department of Natural Resources sells hunting or fishing licenses to veterans rated at total and permanently disabled or with an individual unemployment rating paid at the 100% level at the Senior Citizen rate regardless of the veteran's own age. You may visit the Department of Natural Resources' website at <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr> or call their information office at 517-373-1204 for current rates and how to purchase these licenses.

**Income tax credit for Property Tax paid**

The State's income tax code provides a tax credit for property tax paid by a disabled veteran or surviving spouse. This benefit varies depending on the percentage of disability rating and the family's income. You use MI-1040CR-2 to apply for the tax credit.

Even if no income tax is due, an eligible veteran may still submit a MI-1040CR-2 to receive the income tax credit as a tax refund.

You may visit the State's Department of Treasury website at <http://www.michigan.gov/taxes> for a copy of the form and the instructions.

**Questions**

If you have anymore benefit related questions, you can contact your local Veterans Counselor to make an appointment and discuss your current circumstances. You can find a list of County Veterans Counselors at <http://www.macvc.net>.

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